

HOUSE RESOLUTION 286

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Grace Proffitt McArthur of Maryville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened and deeply moved to learn of the death of Ms. Grace Proffitt McArthur; and

WHEREAS, Grace McArthur was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, affectionately known as “Amazing Grace” by her loved ones, Ms. McArthur and her family are an integral part of the City of Maryville’s and Maryville College’s illustrious history; she was the granddaughter of Nicholas and Mary Alice Proffitt, who came to Maryville in 1889 so their children could get an education at Maryville College, and the daughter of Fred Lowry Proffitt, a revered faculty member and Treasurer of Maryville College during the Great Depression; and

WHEREAS, Grace McArthur graduated from Maryville College in 1935 before attending New York Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, Ms. McArthur served with acumen and alacrity as a superlative director of Christian education at a number of places, including Chestnut Hill Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Sewickley Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in which positions she earned the respect of her peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of her work; and

WHEREAS, Grace McArthur returned to her hometown of Maryville and resumed her distinguished career as Director of Christian education at New Providence Church, in addition to teaching Christian education at Maryville College and in college and parish programs at Home Avenue and Sunnybrook chapels; and

WHEREAS, Ms. McArthur continued to teach and inspire the young people of Maryville in the secular field, teaching kindergarten at Home Avenue and at the elementary level in Maryville City Schools, as well as serving as a librarian at Friendsville and Walland high schools; and

WHEREAS, she was the quintessential pillar of the community who knew more about the core of Maryville than any other living person, and she was frequently called upon for answers about downtown Maryville history; she was also a treasured member of such noteworthy community organizations as the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Blount County Historic Trust, and the Chilhowee Club, of which she rendered astute service as past President; and

WHEREAS, Grace McArthur was an active and devout member of the New Providence Church, which she served faithfully since placing membership there in 1921, and was held in the highest regard as an elder; and

WHEREAS, Grace McArthur was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Ms. McArthur enjoyed the loving companionship of her husband, David McArthur, who preceded her in death; and

WHEREAS, Grace McArthur was the proud mother of Alida Graves, a registered nurse at Blount Memorial Hospital; Fred McArthur, the Executive Vice President of Rariry Communities; and Stainton McArthur, Director of National Accounts Sales for Loft Furniture of Morristown; and

WHEREAS, Ms. McArthur was the doting grandmother of eight and will be fondly remembered by her six great-grandchildren, in addition to her sister, Louise Haviland, her brother-in-law, Wayne, her daughters-in-law, Wanda McArthur and Gail McArthur; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Grace McArthur leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Grace Proffitt McArthur, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our deepest sympathy and offer our heartfelt condolences to the family of Ms. McArthur.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.